

HAK, ~~Summit~~
LL

Israeli forces go
on the offensive.

ZZ

RNR53

MIDEAST--LEAD ISRAEL (RNR18)

TEL AVIV, OCT. 8, REUTER-- ISRAELI FORCES WENT ON THE OFFENSIVE DURING THE THIRD DAY OF THE MIDDLE EAST WAR TODAY, INFLECTING HEAVY LOSSES ON SYRIA AND ENGAGING EGYPTIAN FORCES IN THE SINAI DESERT.

ISRAELI MILITARY SOURCES SAID ISRAEL HAD KNCKED OUT NEARLY HALF OF SYRIA'S TANK FORCE IN THE STRATEGIC GOLAN HEIGHTS AREA, WHERE THEY CONCEDED SYRIA HAD MADE GAINS IN SATURDAY'S INITIAL ATTACK. THE SOURCES SAID ISRAEL HAD DESTROYED OR DISABLED 400 OF THE ESTIMATED 800 TO 1,000 TANKS IN THE AREA.

THE REMAINDER OF THE FORCE WAS NOW ON THE RETREAT, ISRAEL RADIO REPORTED.

AN ARMY SPOKESMAN EARLIER ANNOUNCED HEAVY AIR STRIKES ON SYRIA'S FIVE MAIN MILITARY AIRFIELDS, INFLECTING CONSIDERABLE LOSSES AND DAMAGE.

ISRAEL RADIO SAID THAT ISRAELI FORCES NEAR THE SUEZ CANAL TODAY Began ADVANCING AGAINST EGYPTIAN TANKS ON THE EASTERN SIDE OF THE WATERWAY. SOME RESERVE FORCES HAD ALREADY REACHED THE CANAL ZONE ON THE SOUTHERN FRONT AND WERE ALREADY IN ACTION WHILE OTHERS WERE EXPECTED LATER TODAY, IT SAID.

THERE WAS NO MENTION TODAY OF THE CLAIM LAST NIGHT THAT ISRAEL HAD DESTROYED MOST OF THE BRIDGES THE EGYPTIANS THREW ACROSS THE CANAL TO CARRY THEIR FORCES ON TO THE EASTERN BANK -- A CLAIM DENIED TODAY BY CAIRO.
MORE JC/MAC 0612

ZZ

RNR54

MIDEAST--LEAD ISRAEL 2 TEL VAVIV

BUT THE ISRAELI REPORT THAT THEY HAD CUT OFF THE EGYPTIAN FORCES IN SINAI APPEARED TO BE PREMATURE.

THE MILITARY CORRESPONDENT OF THE WIDELY CIRCULATED AFTERNOON NEWSPAPER MAARIV TODAY REPORTED THAT DURING THE NIGHT THE EGYPTIANS CONTINUED TO CROSS THE SUEZ CANAL TO THE EASTERN BANK ON BRIDGES WHICH ESCAPED DESTRUCTION BY THE ISRAEL AIR FORCE YESTERDAY.

MEANWHILE AN EGYPTIAN MILITARY SPOKESMAN SAID EGYPTIAN FORCES HAVE REPULSED AND DESTROYED ALL COUNTER-ATTACKS LAUNCHED BY THE ISRAELIS IN THE SUEZ CANAL AREA.

THE SPOKESMAN -- QUOTED BY CAIRO RADIO-- SAID THAT ALL THREE ARMED SERVICES TOOK PART IN THE ACTION AGAINST THE ATTACKING ISRAELI FORCES, WHICH, HE SAID, SUFFERED HEAVY LOSSES.

EGYPTIAN NAVAL UNITS WERE OPERATING IN THE MEDITERRANEAN AND THE RED SEA, WHILE TANKS AND MECHANISED INFANTRY WERE POURING IN LARGE NUMBERS INTO SINAI, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

FIRST EYEWITNESS...2ND GRAPH RNR18.
REUTER JC/MAC 0615

ZZ

RNR57

SECOND LEADALL MIDEAST BY REUTER

UNDATED--ISRAEL CLAIMED TO HAVE SHATTERED SYRIAS MASSIVE TANK ATTACK AND TO HAVE GONE OVER TO THE OFFENSIVE AGAINST THE EGYPTIANS AS THE MIDDLE EAST WAR RAGED ON FOR THE THIRD, AND POSSIBLY DECISIVE, DAY.

AIR ATTACKS AGAINST THE ARAB NATIONS WERE ALSO INTENSIFIED, ISRAELI PLANES STRUCK AT SYRIAS MAIN AIRFIELDS AND, ACCORDING TO AN ISRAELI ARMY SPOKESMAN, CAUSED CONSIDERABLE DAMAGE.

BUT NEITHER EGYPT NOR SYRIA GAVE ANY INDICATION THAT THEIR TWO-FRONT THRUST AGAINST THE ISRAELIS WAS SLACKENING.

CAIRO RADIO DENIED REPORTS THAT THE ISRAELIS HAD CUT BRIDGES ACROSS THE SUEZ CANAL, TRAPPING A HUGE EGYPTIAN TANK FORCE, AND REPORTED THAT THE EGYPTIANS WERE STILL POURING TROOPS AND ARMOR ACROSS THE WATERWAY TO PRESS HOME THE ASSAULT AGAINST THE ISRAELIS.

THE SYRIANS ALSO CLAIMED THAT THE ISRAELIS WERE PAYING A HEAVY PRICE FOR THEIR AIR ATTACKS, AND SAID 29 ISRAELI PLANES HAD BEEN SHOT DOWN TODAY BY SYRIAN FIGHTERS AND GROUND FIRE.

THIS BROUGHT THE TOTAL NUMBER OF PLANES SYRIA CLAIMS TO HAVE DESTROYED SINCE THE WAR ERUPTED ON SATURDAY TO 72 -- A FIGURE WHICH, IF SUBSTANTIATED, WOULD REPRESENT A SAVAGE BLOW TO THE ISRAELI AIR FORCE, WHICH IS BELIEVED TO HAVE BETWEEN 450 AND 500 COMBAT AIRCRAFT.

LATEST REPORTS ON THE TWO-FRONT WAR WERE:

SYRIAN FRONT-- ISRAELI MILITARY SOURCES SAID ISRAEL HAD KNOCKED OUT 400 SYRIAN TANKS, NEARLY HALF THE FORCE DEPLOYED AGAINST THEM IN THE GOLAN HEIGHTS BATTLE, AND THE REST WERE ON THE RETREAT. THE ISRAELI AIR FORCE MEANWHILE STRUCK AT THE SYRIAN AIRFIELDS OF DAMEIR, FAYKAL, VLEY, KHUKHLA AND NEXAVRYEH.

BUT SYRIA GAVE A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT PICTURE OF THE GOLAN HEIGHTS BATTLE, AND A MILITARY SPOKESMAN IN DAMASCUS SAID THAT THE MAJOR PART OF THE CENTRAL SECTOR HAD BEEN "LIBERATED."

MORE LFT/HG 0716

ZZ

RNR59

SECOND LEADALL MIDEAST. 2 UNDATED

SYRIAN FORCES WERE BELIEVED IN DAMASCUS TO BE AIMING FOR THE PROVINCIAL CAPITAL OF KUNEITRA, 40 MILES SOUTHWEST OF DAMASCUS, WHICH WAS LOST TO ISRAEL IN THE SIX-DAY WAR IN 1967.

SYRIAN MILITARY AUTHORITIES GAVE FEW DETAILS OF THE GROUND ACTION AND CONCENTRATED ON THE BLOWS SAID TO HAVE BEEN STRUCK AT THE ISRAELI AIR FORCE.

THEY SAID 29 ISRAELI PLANES WERE SHOT DOWN TODAY, EIGHT OF THEM OVER THE GOLAN HEIGHTS AND THE REST DURING ISRAELI ATTACKS ON SYRIAN AIRFIELDS AND OTHER TARGETS.

EGYPTIAN FRONT--EGYPT ANNOUNCED THE FAILURE OF ISRAELI ATTEMPTS TO KNOCK OUT BRIDGES ACROSS THE SUEZ CANAL AND TRAP EGYPTIAN ARMoured FORCES WHICH CROSSED TO THE EAST BANK.

SAID ARAB EGYPTIANS WERE STILL POURING TROOPS AND ARMOR ACROSS THE CANAL INTO SINAI AND HAD DESTROYED 92 ISRAELI TANKS AND 57 PLANES SINCE THE FIGHTING STARTED.

BUT ON THIS FRONT, TOO, ISRAEL CLAIMED TO HAVE GONE OVER TO THE OFFENSIVE AFTER ABSORBING THE FIRST SHOCK OF THE EGYPTIAN ATTACKS.

MORE LFT/HG 0720

RNR60

SECOND LEADALL MIDEAST 3 UNDATED

THE ISRAELIS ALSO REPORTED INTENSIVE AIR ATTACKS ON THE EGYPTIANS ONE REPORT FROM THE FRONT SAID THAT IN A 60-MINUTE PERIOD YESTERDAY THE ISRAELI AIR FORCE DROPPED MORE BOMBS THAN DURING THE ENTIRE WAR IN 1967.

ISRAEL'S FORMER MILITARY INTELLIGENCE CHIEF, GEN. HAIM HERZOG, SAID ABOUT 90 EGYPTIAN AND SYRIAN PLANES HAD BEEN SHOT DOWN SINCE HOSTILITIES BEGAN.

ARAB NATIONS ALLIED WITH EGYPT AND SYRIA ARE GIVING VARYING DEGREES OF SUPPORT -- MOROCCO HAS SENT TROOPS TO HELP THE SYRIANS AND ALGERIA HAS CONTRIBUTED AIR FORCE UNITS TO HELP THE EGYPTIANS.

BUT MOST HAVE SO FAR PROMISED ONLY MORAL OR FINANCIAL SUPPORT, AND THE ATTITUDE OF JORDAN, WHICH COULD EXERCISE A DECISIVE INFLUENCE ON THE WAR, REMAINS UNCERTAIN.

JORDAN, WHICH HAS ONE OF THE MOST POWERFUL ARMED FORCES IN THE MIDDLE EAST, REPORTED TODAY IT HAD SHOT DOWN TWO ISRAELI PLANES WHICH INTRUDED OVER ITS TERRITORY. BUT IT HAS MADE NO MOVE SO FAR TO INTERVENE DIRECTLY ON THE SIDE OF ITS EGYPTIAN AND SYRIAN ALLIES.

ASKED ABOUT THE JORDANIAN REPORT, AN ISRAELI MILITARY SPOKESMAN SAID THERE HAD BEEN NO INCIDENTS WHATSOEVER ON THE JORDAN FRONT.

AND TODAY THE LIBYAN LEADER MUAMMAR GADDAFI, IN PLEDGING FINANCIAL AID FROM HIS COUNTRY'S VAST OIL RESERVES TO EGYPT AND SYRIA, DENOUNCED JORDAN'S KING HUSSEIN AS A COWARD FOR NOT TAKING PART IN THE BATTLE.

THE MOUNTING TEMPO OF THE FIGHTING HAS BROUGHT RENEWED INTERNATIONAL EFFORTS TO BRING ABOUT A CEASEFIRE, WITH THE UNITED STATES CALLING FORMALLY FOR A U.N. SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING TODAY TO DISCUSS THE CRISIS.

REUTER LFT/HG 0725